

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A covering for a floor, wall or ceiling surface comprising:
a primary backing ~~in part~~ having discrete parts thereof exposed on one side of the covering for forming discrete wear surface portions of a wear surface of the covering;

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a plurality of yarns tufted into said primary backing along remaining parts of said primary backing forming cut or loop yarns on a back side of said primary backing remote from said wear surface, leaving a plurality of backstitches of the tufted yarns along and forming discrete remaining wear surface portions of said wear surface; and

a resin fixing said cut or loop ~~pile~~ tufted ~~yarn~~ yarns along the back side of said primary backing;

said discrete remaining wear surface portions formed by said backstitches and said ~~primary backing portions~~ discrete parts of said primary backing exposed along said wear surface having aesthetic characteristics distinguished from one another.

2. (Original) A covering according to Claim 1 wherein said primary backing is formed of a woven material having an ultraviolet stabilizer.

3. (Original) A covering according to Claim 1 wherein each said backstitch extends between a pair of needled openings along the wear surface extending along

and in engagement with the primary backing throughout substantially the entirety of the extent of the backstitch between said openings.

4. (Currently Amended) A covering according to Claim 1 wherein said backstitches and said discrete parts of said primary backing ~~portions~~ have different colorings to afford different aesthetic effects.

5. (Original) A covering according to Claim 1 including an EVA and calcium carbonate layer underlying the resin.

6. (Original) A covering according to Claim 5 including a secondary backing comprising a scrim embedded in the EVA and calcium carbonate layer.

7. (Original) A covering according to Claim 6 wherein said scrim comprises a woven polypropylene.

8. (Original) A covering according to Claim 1 wherein the tufted yarns are of a continuous loop pile construction.

9. (Original) A covering according to Claim 1 wherein the tufted yarns are of a cut loop pile construction.

10. (Currently Amended) A covering according to Claim 1 wherein said primary backing is formed of a woven material having an ultraviolet stabilizer, said backstitches and primary backing ~~portions~~ parts having different colorings to afford different aesthetic effects, an EVA and calcium carbonate layer underlying the resin and a secondary backing comprising a scrim embedded in the EVA and calcium carbonate layer.

11. (Original) A covering according to Claim 10 wherein said scrim comprises a woven polypropylene, and wherein the tufted yarns are of a continuous loop construction.

12. (Original) A covering according to Claim 10 wherein said scrim comprises a woven polypropylene, and wherein the tufted yarns are of a cut loop construction.

13. (Original) A covering according to Claim 1 including a secondary backing underlying said resin and secured to said primary backing by said resin, said secondary backing including a needle-bonded synthetic fiber backing.

14. (Original) A covering according to Claim 13 wherein said secondary backing includes fibers formed of nylon and polypropylene.

15. (Original) A covering according to Claim 1 wherein said primary backing comprises a non-woven material formed of synthetic fibers.

16. (Original) A covering according to Claim 15 wherein said non-woven fiber materials comprise nylon and polyester bonded to one another.

17. (Original) A covering according to Claim 15 wherein said resin comprises a precoat of polyvinylchloride to fix the cut or loop yarns and a main polyvinylchloride coating having a fiberglass stabilizer underlying the precoat.

18. (Original) A covering according to Claim 1 wherein the covering comprises broadloom carpeting.

19. (Original) A covering according to Claim 1 wherein the covering comprises modular carpeting.

20. (Currently Amended) A covering for a floor, wall or ceiling surface comprising:

a woven primary backing having tufted and non-tufted portions on one side thereof exposed for forming discrete respective wear surface portions of a wear surface of the covering;

said tufted portions including a plurality of yarns tufted into said primary backing and formed of cut or loop yarns on a back side of said primary backing remote from said wear surface, leaving a plurality of backstitches of the tufted yarns along and forming ~~part~~ one of said wear surface portions of said wear surface; and

a resin fixing said cut or loop tufted yarns along the back side of said primary backing;

said non-tufted portions comprising warp and weft yarns of said primary backing and forming another of said wear surface portions of said wear surface;

said tufted and non-tufted portions of said primary backing exposed along said wear surface having aesthetic characteristics distinguished from one another.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a covering for a floor, wall or ceiling surface comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing yarns and a primary backing formed of materials having aesthetic characteristics distinguished from one another;
- (b) tufting a plurality of said yarns into and along selected portions of said primary backing forming cut or loop yarns on a back side of primary backing

portions remote from a wear surface of the covering leaving a plurality of backstitches of the tufted yarns along and forming discrete portions of said wear surface and exposing non-tufted remaining portions of the primary backing to respectively form remaining discrete portions of the wear surface; and

- (c) applying a resin along the back side of said primary backing to fix said cut or loop pile tufted yarn;

thereby to form a covering with discrete wear surfaces formed by the backstitches of the tufted yarns and exposed portions of the primary backing, respectively.

22. (Previously Added) A method according to Claim 21 including forming said primary backing of a woven material having an ultraviolet stabilizer.

23. (Previously Added) A method according to Claim 21 including providing the tufting yarns and primary backing in different colorings to afford different aesthetic characteristics.

24. (Previously Added) A method according to Claim 21 including applying an EVA and calcium carbonate layer to underlie the resin.

25. (Previously Added) A method according to Claim 24 including providing a secondary backing by embedding a scrim in the EVA and calcium carbonate layer.

26. (Previously Added) A method according to Claim 21 including forming the tufted yarns in a continuous loop pile construction.

27. (Previously Added) A method according to Claim 21 including forming the tufted yarns in a cut loop pile construction.

28. (Previously Added) A method according to Claim 1 including forming said primary backing of a woven material having an ultraviolet stabilizer, providing the tufting yarns and primary backing in different colorings to afford different aesthetic characteristics, applying an EVA and calcium carbonate layer to underlie the resin, and providing a secondary backing by embedding a scrim in the EVA and calcium carbonate layer.

29. (Previously Added) A method according to Claim 21 including forming a needle-bonded synthetic secondary backing and securing said secondary backing to said primary backing by said resin.

30. (Previously Added) A method according to Claim 21 including forming said primary backing of a non-woven material of synthetic fibers, fixing the cut or loop yarns by providing a precoat of polyvinylchloride to the back side of the primary backing and providing a main polyvinylchloride coating having a fiberglass stabilizer to the precoat.

31. (Previously Added) A method according to Claim 21 including forming the covering into broadloom carpeting.

32. (Previously Added) A method according to Claim 21 including forming the covering into modular carpeting.

33. (New) A covering according to Claim 1 wherein each of said discrete wear surface portions of said primary backing includes an area thereof void of tufted yarns.

34. (New) A covering according to Claim 33 wherein the wear surface portion of said area void of tufted yarns is exposed at an elevation above any other material in said covering forming part of said area.

35. (New) A covering according to Claim 20 wherein each of said discrete wear surface portions of said primary backing includes an area thereof void of tufted yarns.

36 (New) A covering according to Claim 35 wherein the wear surface portion of said area void of tufted yarns is exposed at an elevation above any other material in said covering forming part of said area.

37. (New) A method according to Claim 21 including forming each of said discrete wear surface portions of said primary backing to include an area thereof void of tufted yarns.

38. (New) A method according to Claim 37 including forming the wear surface portion of each said area of said primary backing at an elevation above any other material in said covering forming part of said area.